GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:895
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
INTRUSION BY PAKISTANI FISHERMEN
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Navy, not only instigating its fishermen to sail into Indian waters but also projecting some ports on the Gujarat coast as being part of Pakistan's territory as published in the Hindustan Times dated October 23, 2000; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item titled "Pak Navy inciting fishermen to sail into Indian waters" that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd October, 2000. A Coast Guard ship apprehended two Pakistani fishing vessels with 37 crew members on 16th October, 2000, 15 nautical miles from Jakhau Light which is 32 nautical miles inside the notional International Boundary Line for fishing illegally in Exclusive Economic Zone of India. These boats were escorted to Okha and handed over to police for appropriate legal action.

Pakistani fishermen have strayed into Indian waters in the past and carried out poaching. Incitement by the Pakistani navy cannot be ruled out.

There have been no known incidents of fishing boats apprehended off the coast of Saurashtra where arms, ammunition and norcotics have been found.

A Joint Coastal Patrolling exercise is in existence along the West coast. This operation is being executed by Navy, Coast Guard, State Police and Customs. Under this arrangement Coast Guard and Navy patrol the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and intermediate layers. Close coastal layer is patrolled by Navy, Coast Guard, State Police and Customs. Pakistani fishermen intruding into our waters are apprehended and handed over to local police for appropriate legal action.